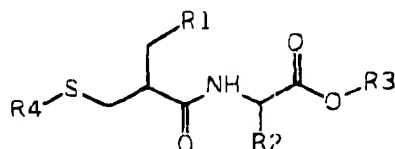


ATTACHMENT BMarked Up Replacement Claims

Following herewith is a marked up copy of each rewritten claim together with all other pending claims.

Following herewith is a marked up copy of each rewritten claim.

1. Process for preparing a compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein :

- R1 represents: - a phenyl group; or
- a 3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl group
- R2 represents a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group;
- R3 represents a hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group or a lower phenylalkylene group; and
- R4 represents a linear or branched aliphatic acyl radical or an aromatic acyl radical,

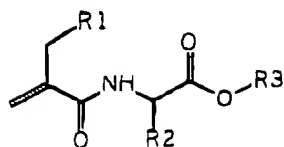
said process comprising a step (B) which consists in performing a Michael addition of a thioacid of formula (IV):



(IV)

wherein R4 has the same meaning as in formula (I),

with an α -substituted acrylamide derivative of formula (V):

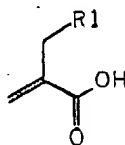


(V)

wherein R1, R2 and R3 have the same meaning as in formula (I).

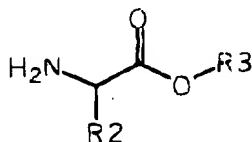
2. Process according to Claim 1, wherein the group R4 represents an acetyl radical $\text{CH}_3\text{-CO-}$, a benzoyl radical $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{-CO-}$ or a pivaloyl radical $\text{CH}_3)_3\text{-CO-}$.

3. (amended) Process according to Claim 1 ~~or according to Claim 2~~, wherein said α -substituted acrylamide derivative of formula (V) is obtained from a step (A), prior to step (B), comprising a step consisting in performing the coupling of an acrylic acid of formula (VI):



(VI)

wherein R1 has the same meaning as in formula (I), with an amino ester of formula (VIII):

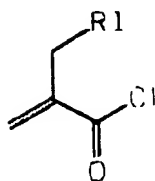


(VIII)

wherein R2 and R3 have the have the same meaning as in formula (I).

4. Process according to Claim 3, wherein said step (A) comprises the successive steps consisting in:

(A1) reacting said α -substituted acrylic acid of formula (VI) with an chloro acid so as to obtain an acid chloride of formula (VII):



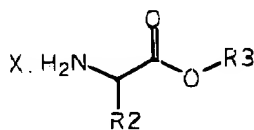
(VII)

wherein R1 has the same meaning as in formula (I);

and

A2) reacting the acid chloride of formula (VII) thus obtained with said amino ester of formula (VIII), in the presence of a base, so as to achieve the coupling.

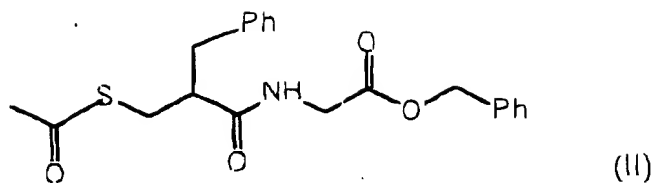
5. Process according to Claim 4, wherein the chloro acid used in step (A1) is chosen from SOCl_2 , ClCO-COCl , PCl_3 and PCl_5 .
6. (amended) Process according to Claim 4 ~~or Claim 5~~, wherein the acid chloride of formula (VII) obtained from step (A1) is subjected to a distillation step before being used in step (A2).
7. (amended) Process according to ~~any one of Claims 4 to 6~~ claim 4, wherein the base used in step (A2) is an organic amine.
8. (amended) Process according to ~~any one of Claims 4 to 7~~ claim 1, wherein the amino ester used in step (A2) is introduced in the form of a salt of formula (VIIIa):



(VIIIa)

wherein R2 and R3 have the same meaning as in formula (I); and wherein X is chosen from HCl , $\text{CH}_3\text{SO}_3\text{H}$ and 4-methylphenyl- SO_3H .

9. (amended) Process according to ~~any one of Claims 4 to 8~~ claim 4, wherein step (A2) is carried out in the presence of an organic solvent chosen from toluene, dichloromethane, 1,2-dichloroethane, chloroform, N,N-dimethylformamide, 1,4-dioxane, N-methylpyrrolidone, N,N-dimethylacetamide, butyl acetate, ethyl acetate, isobutyl acetate, isopropyl acetate, methyl acetate, propyl acetate and tetrahydrofuran.
10. (amended) Process according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1, wherein compound (V) used in step (B) is a chiral compound wherein R2 denotes a lower alkyl group, said compound (V) being used at least predominantly in its S configuration or at least predominantly in its R configuration.
11. Process according to Claim 10, wherein compound (V) is used in its optically pure S form.
12. Process according to Claim 11, wherein compound (V) is prepared by a condensation reaction of an acrylic acid of formula (VI) with an amino ester of formula (VIII) derived from a natural amino acid.
13. (amended) Process according to ~~any one of Claims 10 to 12~~ claim 10, wherein chirality inducers are used in step (B).
14. (amended) Process according to ~~any one of Claims 10 to 12~~ claim 10, which further comprises, after step (B), a subsequent step (C) of separation of the diastereoisomers obtained in step (B).
15. (amended) Process according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1, wherein said obtained compound of formula (I) is benzyl N-(RS)-[2-acetylthiomethyl-1-oxo-3-phenylpropyl]glycinate of formula (II):



16. (amended) Process according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 14~~ claim 1, wherein said obtained compound of formula (I) is benzyl N-(S)-[2-acetylthiomethyl-1-oxo-3-(3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl)propyl]-(S)-alaninate of formula (III):

